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Bangalore Mirror

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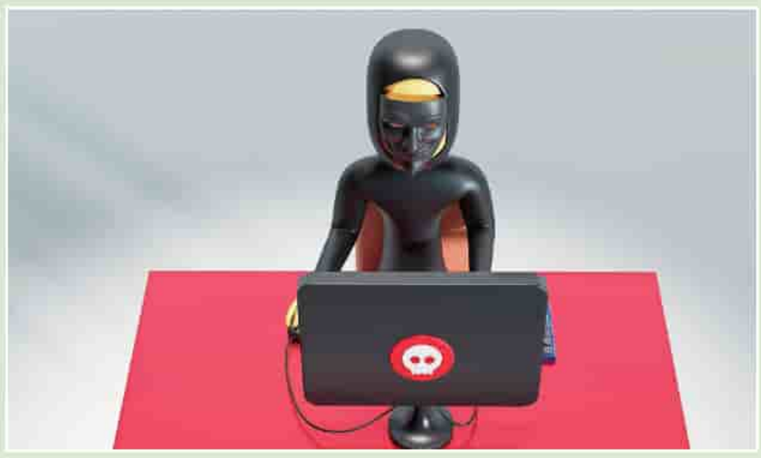
TIPSY AT THE WHEEL

Traffic police have already booked nearly 10,000 drink-driving cases between January and March this compared to 3,000+ in same period last year

PAGE 3



SLIPPERY CHARACTERS

Cyber crooks are proving really tough to catch as city faces spike in cases, only 1.7% of 2,838 cases in 2025 have been resolved

PAGE 5

Ride-hailing apps now prompt users to add tip even before showing available autos and most of the times even tips of Rs 30-70 are no guarantee that you will get a ride

AT THE TIPPING POINT

Convenient pickup points turn out to be not-so convenient at all

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Auto commuters in Bengaluru are growing frustrated as ride-hailing apps now ask users to tip before a ride is confirmed, without any guarantee that an auto will actually show up. What was initially meant to encourage drivers during busy hours has now become a regular feature, pushing up daily travel costs. Yet, even tipping as much as ₹30 to ₹70 often doesn't ensure a confirmed ride.

Tip first, please

Ride-hailing platforms now prompt users to add a tip even before showing available autos, an approach that commuters say increases pressure and uncertainty. This model not only inflates fares but also makes it harder to navigate already hectic peak hours, especially when there's no guarantee of a confirmed ride after tipping.

Despite offering higher tips, many users still face long wait times as drivers tend to accept only those trips with the highest incentives. As a result, riders without the means or willingness to tip more are often left without options. While current regulations cap fare surges at 5% above the standard rate, commuters routinely end up paying much more once these tips are added into the total cost.

"Sometimes I have to tip more than ₹30 just to get a ride. And even then, there are days when no one accepts. I end up flagging down a passing auto or squeezing into a shared one
—Office-goer

App users grow frustrated

Recently, ride-hailing apps have introduced designated convenient pickup points to streamline boarding, but commuters say this has come at an added cost. "If the auto's convenient pickup point is far from the location I've selected, drivers often charge an extra ₹20 to ₹30," a student commuter told BM, adding that it takes them 20 to 30 minutes to reach the selected

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

DIY workshop, monsoon special

Citizens have no time to mope about rain damage because they have to fix issues themselves as civic agencies go MIA

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If you're new to Bengaluru and wondering what life skills you'll need to survive the city, here's a pro tip: Add 'Do-It-Yourself' (DIY) to your skill set — especially during monsoon. Because when the rain gods arrive, civic responsibility packs up and leaves.

Take Bhuvaneshwari Nagar (SBI Bank road, ward no 14), for instance. On May 2, a tree decided it had had enough and gracefully collapsed across the SBI road in Ward No. 14, Dasarahalli Zone. "We have been continuously following up, we were told that too many trees had fallen and they need more time to clear. So, we only had to clear the road. The basic mantra we learned today was DIY."

That is just the beginning. The season's real Most Valuable Player (MVP) — the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) — continues to play its greatest hits. With manholes conveniently left uncleaned before the rains, blocked sewage lines are practically a given. And when the dirty water begins to bubble up into homes, residents don't call BWSSB — they just grab buckets. "Forget cleaning machines. We just wait it out.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Shopping spree

The Meena Bazaar Arts and Crafts Mela presents a vibrant mix of women's clothing, fashion accessories, perfumes, footwear, imitation jewelry, home appliances, and children's toys. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Until May 11**

02 Soulful music

Phoenix Marketcity is set to host Kailash Kher, who will be performing live and mesmerising the audience with his songs. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: May 10**

03 Immersive theatre

Academy of Music and Nrithya Rangoli Festival is presenting Rama Katha Vismaya, a broadway style grand spectacle that brings together 60 talented artists and cutting-edge techniques to create an immersive experience unlike any other. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: May 17 and 18, 6.30 pm**

04 Literary treasure

LOCKTHEBOX, a book fest is being organised, presenting thousands of books–new and pre-loved, bestselling and hidden gems. **Where: Garuda Mall, Ashok Nagar; When: May 8 to 18, 11 am**

05 Furever love

Pet Fed is presenting its Express Edition Pet Festival. Pets are in for a treat as the event offers an exclusive play area, a pet fashion show, a pet talent show, pet shopping stalls, and food and beverages for your beloved companions. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: May 25, 11 am**

Indiranagar residents oppose basketball stadium project

Stadium would limit public use of playground used by many; construction plans undertaken without conducting any public consultation or discussion, say residents

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The basketball ground at Victory Grounds in 1st Stage Indiranagar is expected to become a tensile-roofed stadium at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.5 crore; Inset: Residents opposed the construction project at a press meet

Residents of Indiranagar came together to display their angst and objection to the construction of a stadium in the only open and free Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) playground in the locality.

Notably, the Karnataka Olympic Association President K Govindaraj said that the government proposes to construct a stadium on the Victory Grounds. Bangalore Mirror published a story 'Basketball court by day, tipplers' field by night' on April 29, narrating how citizens were unhappy over the unclean state of Victory Grounds, with garbage, plastic bottles, cups, and empty liquor bottles strewn all around.

The basketball ground at Victory Grounds in 1st Stage Indiranagar is expected to become a tensile-roofed stadium at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.5 crore, and its groundbreaking ceremony is to be held soon.

"This is the only open and free BBMP playground for both 1st and 2nd Stage Indiranagar. Our children use it, children of two to three schools nearby use it, and also children from the nearby low-income areas use it too. A stadium will immediately limit the use of this public space," said Swarna Venkataraman, Core Member of I Change Indiranagar and a resident of the area.

V Ashok, President of Indiranagar 1st Stage League Residents Welfare Association, emphasised the need for equitable access to the area's only remaining open space. Given Indiranagar's increasing congestion, he stressed that the playground must remain accessible to all, ensuring a much-needed breathing space for the community. "How can enclosing an open space be beneficial to the people who use it? It will not improve the utilisation of the playground, it will only restrict our children from using it," said Ashok.

Sneha Nandihal, Co-founder of I Change Indiranagar, highlighted that residents had secured a High Court stay order in 2017 against a previous indoor stadium project. Despite this, she noted that BBMP has revived the plan without conducting any public consultation or discussion, raising concerns among the community. "The State Human Rights Commission too had taken cognisance of the issue. We are extremely concerned about its negative impact, not only on the kids of our area but also on us residents, given the huge increase in traffic, congestion, pollution, and noise this indoor stadium will bring in," she said.

> **"The proposed car park seems to be taking over the entire playground. Why don't we spend a fraction of the same ₹6.5 crore for the upkeep of the playground and keep it inclusive, as it is now?"** – Ashok Sarath, President of Defence Colony Resident Association

Ashok Sarath, President of Defence Colony Resident Association, said that the Detailed Project Report incorrectly claims that the playground is surrounded by wide roads, while in fact, it is situated amidst a residential area. "The proposed car park seems to be taking over the entire playground. Why don't we spend a fraction of the same Rs. 6.5 crore for the upkeep of the playground and keep it inclusive, as it is now?" opined Ashok Sarath.

University reforms set for cabinet review

A high-level cabinet sub-committee, comprising senior ministers, has prepared an in-depth study report on reforms for universities in the state. The report will soon be presented at the cabinet meeting, according to Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar. "Based on our report, necessary measures will be taken to improve financially and administratively struggling universities. The report also suggests the merger of certain universities, but no final decision has been made yet. We will submit the report first, and then discuss further actions," he stated. The minister pointed out that some past misguided decisions and the imitation of foreign university models have contributed to the decline of prestigious institutions. He noted that previously, medical and technical colleges were under university jurisdiction, ensuring a stable revenue stream. "However, over the past 25 years, the establishment of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Visvesvaraya Technological University, and Open Universities has had a significant financial impact on traditional universities," he explained.

He also highlighted the challenges faced due to hasty establishment of new universities without scientific studies, driven by emotional decision-making. The minister revealed that there are 2,800 vacant teaching positions across universities in Karnataka, and a request for recruitment has been submitted to the Chief Minister. He also criticised universities for appointing faculty and non-teaching staff without the finance department's approval, leading to financial mismanagement. **— BMB**

Strict security at NEET-UG

A high-level cabinet sub-comMedical entrance exam National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) was held at more than 5,400 centres around the country amidst strict monitoring and security measures on Sunday, officials said.

Mock drills were held at all NEET-UG centres on Saturday to ensure smooth conduct of the nationwide exam. Most of the centres were located in government and government-aided schools, colleges, universities, and institutions. Notably, members of the Brahmin community held a protest outside an exam centre in Kalaburagi, demanding accountability after some students from the community were asked to remove their janivara (sacred thread). **— PTI**

Raisins become costlier

The prices of dry grapes are witnessing a sudden surge. The dry grapes till recently were sold for Rs 350 per kg but have now increased to Rs 400 per kg. After four years of continuous price decline, dry grapes are fetching good prices this season, bringing relief to farmers who had been struggling with losses. Many farmers, who had even abandoned grape cultivation due to the previous losses, are now returning to the fields. Since the pandemic, dry grape prices had been between Rs 60 to Rs 150 per kg, leaving farmers in debt as their production costs were not covered. However, prices have now surged to Rs 180 to Rs 380 per kg, with some farmers even receiving Rs 500 to Rs 700 per kg.

Despite the favourable prices, the harvest this year has been lower than expected due to adverse weather conditions. Heavy pre-monsoon rains, extreme cold from October to December, and diseases have led to a lower yield. As a result, the reduced harvest has also contributed to the price increase. Grape cultivation in North Karnataka spans 37,000 hectares, with Vijayapura district being the largest producer. Bagalkot and Belagavi districts also contribute significantly. Normally, 20 tonnes of dry grapes are produced annually, but this year only 12 tonnes were harvested due to the weather disruptions. Despite earlier setbacks, rising prices have helped recover some losses, noted Abhaykumar Nandrekhar, President of the Grape Growers Association. **— BMB**

Drunk & booked: B'luru logs 10K cases in 3 months

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Drunk-driving cases spike in city as traffic cops step up checks from Thursday to Sunday; officials link rise to more personnel, expanded duties, and growing road rage concerns

The number of drink-driving cases in Bengaluru this year has gone through the roof. Data from Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) shows that the department has already booked nearly 10,000 drink-driving (DD) cases between January and March this year. The number of cases booked in the corresponding time last year was a little over 3,000.

This year, while 3,500 drink-driving cases were booked in January, 2,900 cases were registered in February, followed by 3,500 cases in March.

In 2024, 1,100 drunk-driving cases were recorded in January and February, followed by 900 cases in March.

According to BTP officials, the surge in the number of DD cases is due to additional staff strength at every station.

"Earlier, only inspectors of respective stations had the power to check and book DD cases in their jurisdictions. Every station has one inspector, and thus, they could perform checks on a limited number of drivers. However, considering the increase in road rage cases, BTP has given the power to sub-inspectors as well to conduct DD checks and book drivers. This has led to more checks, leading to a surge in the number of cases," said Officials say the high number of DD cases is also due to an increase in the number of days in a week to crack down on drink-driving cases.

Earlier, checks were done on three days of the week (Friday to Sunday). This has now been increased to four days, Thursday to Sunday.

More often than not, drink-driving has led to many fatal accidents in the past. An intoxicated driver implies a driver with impaired judgment, increasing the likelihood of road accidents, experts say. They opine that BTP should be on the lookout for intoxicated drivers all week long. However, vigilance should be increased over the weekends.

"While conducting drink-driving tests on four days of the week is a step in the right direction, such a surge in the number of cases indicates that the test should be conducted every day. This will only lead to fewer road accidents, saving lives," said a citizen.

However, BTP officials say so far there are no plans to increase the number of days for DD checks.

"Any decision regarding increasing vigilance on DD cases has to come from the Joint Commissioner or the Commissioner. So far, we are looking at strict checking of such cases from Thursday to Sunday," said the official.

Dial 112 for real-time tracking by police? No can do

Police clarify though helpline is fully operational, no such service is currently available on it; but safety of citizens is their number one priority

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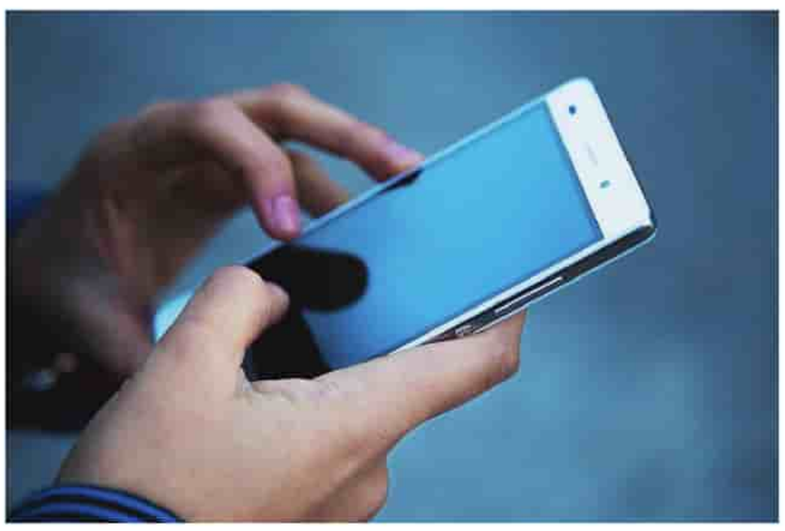

A new wave of misinformation is making rounds on social media, falsely claiming that women traveling alone at night can call the 112 helplines to have police track their journey for safety. A viral video, circulated widely across social media platforms, portrays this as an official initiative by the police. However, authorities have firmly debunked this claim, labelling it as fake news.

The Commissioner of Police clarified that no such service is currently offered through the 112 helpline. "There is no protocol that allows real-time tracking of a citizen's travel upon calling 112. The video is misleading and can create false expectations," he said. The department has urged the public not to believe or forward any such messages unless they are released through official handles of the City Police.

This isn't the first time the 112 helpline has been at the centre of misinformation. Over the past three years, police officials have had to repeatedly issue clarifications over similar fake news. In 2022, a post went viral stating that if a woman sends a "missed call" to 112, a patrol vehicle would immediately be dispatched to her location. Another false claim suggested that dialling 112 would allow

FAKE NEWS ALERT

citizens to record emergency situations directly into a police database again, completely baseless.

Officials warn that such false claims not only mislead citizens but also burden emergency response systems. "When people call 112 expecting services that don't exist, it diverts attention from genuine emergencies," a senior officer explained. "It's important that citizens rely only on verified sources for such critical information."

Reassuring the public, the police emphasised that the safety of all citizens, especially women, remains a top priority. While the viral claim is false, the 112 helpline is fully operational and responsive for real-time emergencies. If anyone feels unsafe or threatened at any time, they are encouraged to immediately call 112, and the police will provide assistance as required.

The police have consistently emphasised the importance of trusting only the official social media accounts of the City Police for updates regarding public safety services. "Any video or post that is not issued by us should not be trusted or circulated," the senior police official stated.

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‘Pay and play’ on the rise, but at what cost?

Driven by lack of public playgrounds, areas like Sarjapur Road, HSR Layout, and Whitefield have emerged as hubs for sporting facilities where users can book convenient time slots

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The ‘pay and play’ model is witnessing a significant surge in Bengaluru, as sports enthusiasts and fitness seekers turn to rented turfs and courts to reclaim their love for games in a city increasingly starved of open spaces.

From mini football turfs tucked into tech corridors to rooftop badminton courts and late-night cricket pitches, hundreds of facilities have mushroomed across the city. The model allows users to book time slots ranging from 30 minutes to several hours without the need for memberships or long-term commitments. According to Sportify, a leading aggregator of turf bookings, Bengaluru has seen a 60% rise in daily bookings over the last 18 months. “The flexibility and convenience offered by these spaces cater to working professionals, college students, and even families,” said Vivek Naidu, founder of PlayItNow, which operates six multisport arenas in the city.

Areas like Sarjapur Road, HSR Layout, and Whitefield have emerged as hubs for such facilities, driven by a high density of young professionals and a shortage of public playgrounds. Most turfs operate until midnight or later, catering to office-goers seeking recreation after work.

The surge is also being driven by a growing health and wellness culture. “People don’t want to be stuck in gyms anymore. Playing a sport is fun, social, and good exercise,” said Ananya Rao, a product designer who plays badminton thrice a week with friends on a rented court in Indiranagar.

Turf operators are expanding their footprint, with some introducing monthly leagues, coaching academies, and women-only slots to boost engagement

According to Sportify, a leading aggregator of turf bookings, Bengaluru has seen a 60% rise in daily bookings over the last 18 months

However, the model is not accessible to everyone. “Turfs are definitely out of reach for many people, especially in the outskirts, where the charges are often higher,” said M Kumar, General Secretary of the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA). He said that while there are around 30 to 40 turfs coming up in smaller residential areas, their main motive is profit. He highlighted that children in central areas do not get easy access to these spaces, and they often miss out on regular physical activity. “Playing for just one or two hours a week doesn’t offer much benefit to the body. Today’s generation is overwhelmed with distractions, and without access to proper open grounds, children are being deprived of opportunities to play and develop,” he said. The average hourly rate ranges from Rs 800 to Rs 1,500 for a five-a-side football pitch and around Rs 300 to Rs 600 for a badminton court. While some balk at the costs, others see it as a small price for convenience and access. Many platforms now allow group splitting of costs and app-based seamless bookings.

Urban planners and community activists warn that the popularity of such spaces highlight a deeper issue—the slow disappearance of public playgrounds. “The pay and play model is booming because the government has failed to protect and maintain public sports infrastructure,” said Gopal Rao, an urban researcher at Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS). He opined that the model is another example of public goods being privatised.

“These spaces are out of reach for many lower-income groups. Sports should not be a luxury,” said Kavya N, a school coach from Hebbal, highlighting inclusivity as a concern. There is growing advocacy for regulation and subsidy models aimed at ensuring partial access to underprivileged youth.

Despite concerns, investors are optimistic. Turf operators are expanding their footprint, and some are even introducing monthly leagues, coaching academies, and women-only slots to boost engagement. The trend reflects Bengaluru’s changing urban culture—fast-paced, flexible, and craving meaningful recreation in tight schedules. As long as public spaces remain scarce, the turf economy seems poised for continued growth.

BBMP clears withered saplings on Infantry road

BBMP must ensure contractors maintain planted saplings; the saplings can be numbered for easier tracking and maintenance, say environmentalists

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Environmentalists and pedestrians have appreciated the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Horticulture Department for taking measures to remove the withered saplings on Infantry Road.

“We have taken measures to clear the withered saplings on Infantry Road. We will take care of the saplings planted on this road,” said BBMP Horticulture (East) Superintendent Vijay Kumar.

Bangalore Mirror
Wither hither
Saplings planted on Infantry Road dry up, activists question BBMP's commitment towards greening city

Bangalore Mirror had reported on May 3 about the withered saplings

The environmentalists want the BBMP Forest Department to ensure that the contractors maintain the saplings for three years as per the agreement. “The BBMP Forest Department is not only understaffed but also overloaded with too many tasks. I suggest the BBMP Forest Department encourages citizen volunteers to alert the contractor whenever they come across withered saplings. I and two others have sent applications to the BBMP Forest Department to allow us work as citizen volunteers but we are yet to receive any reply from the authorities,” said Dattatreya Devare, Trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

He observed that saplings have been planted along the Inter Ring Road median between Domlur and Koramangala. He opined that the BBMP authorities should formalise volunteering by citizens to caution or alert the contractor about withered saplings. “My suggestion to the BBMP Forest Department is that they should not plant saplings till the onset of monsoon,” he said.

Balaji Raghotham, an environmentalist, said that citizens need not maintain the saplings as the BBMP Forest Department engaged contractors to plant saplings. He urged the BBMP Forest Department to instruct the contractor to number each planted sapling, ensuring proper tracking and maintenance. “I am fixing the tree guards which have fallen and maintain saplings every day. Why can’t the contractors maintain saplings planted by them?” he asked.

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Broken pavement

Shoolay Circle

The pavement at Shoolay Circle is broken and in need of repair.

Pedestrian woes

KR Puram

The pavement at the Notting Hall corner, Bannerghatta Road, is in poor condition, obstructed by debris, pits, lampposts, and encroachments. Pedestrians, especially senior citizens and children, struggle to navigate or cross, with vehicles occupying all available space.

Garbage menace

HSR Layout

Garbage is dumped in front of house number 569, 15th Main, 22nd Cross, Sector 3, HSR Layout.

Heirs fined ₹25K over land dispute

The Karnataka High Court has levied a Rs 25,000 fine on the descendants of an original grantee for concealing facts in their appeal seeking restoration of 1 acre of land in Singena Agrahara, Anekal taluk. Justices V Kameshwar Rao and TM Nadaf, forming a division bench, advised the state government to establish proper procedures to address negligent officials who fail to act promptly under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) (PTCL) Act.

The land, initially granted to Chikkavenkatamma in January 1982, was sold in 1996, with PTCL Act Section-4 permission obtained in 1998. The property was subsequently resold in 2004 through another registered deed.

The original grantee sought land restoration under the PTCL Act in 2005. Although the Assistant Commissioner rejected the application, the Deputy Commissioner ordered the land's restoration in 2009, leading the subsequent buyers to seek high court intervention.

The single bench determined that despite the document's presentation on November 16, 1996, the sub-registrar registered it on June 15, 1998, following valid government permission under section 4(2) of the PTCL Act. The original grantee's descendants challenged this ruling.

The division bench observed that the sub-registrar had appropriately exercised authority under Section 6 of the PTCL Act, registering after confirming prior permission for land transfer. "We have noticed from the record that the appellants (Narayanamma and others), along with other relatives, entered into a registered agreement of sale with one C Venkatesh.

"On the query of this court, counsel for the appellants admits that the appellants did enter into a registered agreement of sale with C Venkatesh. Despite the same, the appellants have not disclosed the said fact in the writ appeal either in the facts of the case or in the grounds," the bench stated, ordering the fine to be paid to the Karnataka State Advocates Welfare Fund, Bengaluru.

The bench highlighted that despite the PTCL Act's enactment in 1978, authorised officials responded sluggishly, despite having suo-motu powers for immediate action.

The lack of willingness on the part of the authorities to initiate proceedings at the earliest, as the lands granted being the Government land and waiting for the grantees or the descendants to approach, shows the apathy with which the provisions are dealt with. **–BMB**

No shield for misconduct

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that criminal acts within the Legislative House can be prosecuted, with legislators not entitled to absolute immunity. Through a single-judge verdict, Justice Nagaprasanna rejected the dismissal plea for a case against BJP legislator CT Ravi, who faced charges of disrespecting Congress legislator Lakshmi Hebbalkar's modesty inside the State Council at Belagavi.

The ruling specified that while Article 1942 of the Indian Constitution typically protects legislators' speech in the legislature, exceptions exist. The court maintains authority for judicial review in matters involving parliamentary privilege, with each situation evaluated individually.

Following his arrest on December 19, 2024, under sections 75 and 79 of the BNS, Rawi secured bail through the High Court. Subsequently, he attempted to have the charges nullified.

The court stressed that respect for women's dignity indicates social advancement. It highlighted that the case involved inappropriate remarks by an elected official, specifically calling the complainant a prostitute, violating sections 75 and 79 of the BNS.

The judgment established that actions diminishing women's dignity or offending their modesty cannot receive legislative privilege protection, regardless of occurring within the House. The court determined that the allegations warranted investigation, given the clear documentation of offensive language.

The verdict affirmed that whilst legislative speech privileges remain essential for democratic functioning, they require responsible and ethical application. The court envisioned the legislature as a space for constructive discourse rather than personal attacks. In dismissing the petition, it reinforced that the legislature must uphold dignity and respect, avoiding defamatory or gender-discriminatory behaviour. **–BMB**

Victims multiply, but cyber crooks still elude capture

Cyber fraud cases in Bengaluru face significant delays, with only 22.7% of 17,631 cases solved in 2023 and 8.8% of 17,501 cases in 2024, while just 1.7% of 2,838 cases in 2025 have been resolved

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Cyber fraud cases continue to surge in the capital, with citizens losing crores of rupees every day. However, victims are left helpless, as investigations into these cases seem to be at a standstill.

An analysis of cyber fraud cases filed in the city over the last three years, along with the cases solved by the police, reveals a significant delay in police investigations. In 2023, only 22.7% of the 17,631 cyber fraud cases were resolved, with 4,003 cases solved. In 2024, just 8.8% of the 17,501 cases were addressed, with only 1,545 cases solved. By the end of March 2025, 2,838 cases were filed, but only 1.7% (48 cases) had been resolved. Over 29,000 cases from the past three years are still under investigation.

The state police department has repeatedly assured that it is providing cybercrime investigation training to all officers. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has also promised to speed up cybercrime investigations, stating that training staff to improve efficiency is a priority. However, cyber fraud cases continue to pile up at city police stations year after year, with delays in investigations only increasing. As a result, victims who have lost crores to these cybercriminals are now facing even more difficulties in obtaining justice. Their hopes of recovering the lost money have all but evaporated. Meanwhile, the frequency of cyber fraud cases is only increasing year on year.

To crack down on the criminals behind these cases, information such as bank account details, phone numbers, and other crucial data used for fraud is needed.

Cybercrime in Bengaluru

	2023	2024	2025 (until March)
Total cases	17,631	17,631	2,838
Cases solved	4,603	4,603	48
Fraud amount	₹676.92 Crore	₹1,087 Crore	₹358 Crore
Recovered amount	₹58 Crore	₹142 Crore	₹76 Crore

"Delay in filing complaints by victims is also contributing to sluggish investigation process. Victims often wait several days before filing complaint –Senior police official

However, agencies providing such information are delaying their responses, further stalling investigations. Additionally, since most investigations need to be based on technical aspects, the process of solving these cases is inherently delayed.

A senior police official said, "The delay in filing complaints by victims is also contributing to the sluggish investigation process. Victims often wait several days or even months before filing a complaint, during which time the fraudsters might have withdrawn money from fake bank accounts or destroyed the SIM cards and other details they used for the scam. This makes it challenging to identify the real perpetrators."

Police said that cyber frauds are mostly committed by criminals from other states, such as Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi, often under false identities. The police face further difficulties when attempting to track down these criminals, as they often disappear when investigations move to their home states. As a result, arrests remain elusive, making the process of bringing these criminals to justice even more complicated.

Man detained for indecent behaviour

A man was arrested on Sunday for assaulting and behaving indecently towards a woman near the front gate of EcoWorld Tech Park, Marathahalli, on the night of April 30.

The incident took place around 11:40 pm when the complainant was walking near the tech park gate. Police said the accused approached her, slapped her on the back, and behaved inappropriately before fleeing the spot.

Based on her complaint, a case was registered at the Marathahalli Police Station. A special team was formed, and a swift operation led to the arrest of the accused on Sunday. Further investigation is underway.

Cuffed inmate escapes watch

An undertrial prisoner who was admitted to Victoria Hospital's trauma care centre following a suicide attempt managed to escape in the early hours of Saturday, giving the slip to security personnel.

The accused, identified as Chandrashekhar, is facing trial in a robbery case. Police said he had attempted suicide on May 2 by consuming crushed glass pieces. He was initially treated at the prison hospital before being shifted to Victoria Hospital under tight security.

Though his legs were cuffed to the hospital bed, Chandrashekhar allegedly managed to unlock the restraints and flee from the trauma centre in the morning.

VV Puram police visited the hospital and conducted a spot inspection. They are now questioning both hospital staff and the security personnel on duty to determine how the escape occurred.

Preliminary investigations point to negligence on the part of the guards, which is now being examined further through an internal inquiry by the prison department and the police.

Government takes first step to overhaul recruitment body

Karnataka administration initiates major reforms in Public Service Commission by forming Search Committee for merit-based appointments, addressing long-ignored recommendations and judicial orders

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The Karnataka government has taken the first step towards overhauling the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), an institution that has long been mired in allegations of exam malpractices, corruption, biased recruitment, and nepotism.

Acknowledging that real reform is impossible without transparency in the appointment of the Commission's Chairman and Members, the government has now constituted a Search Committee to oversee these appointments. This move comes as a long-overdue response to repeated recommendations and judicial directives.

Six-member panel, headed by Chief Secretary, includes retired top officials and experts from institutions like IIMB, IISc

Recognising need for transparency, administration has formed a Search Committee to oversee KPSC appointments, acting on long-pending recommendations and court orders

Recommendations ignored for years

Back in 2013, the PC Hota Committee had recommended the formation of a Search Committee to ensure merit-based appointments to the KPSC. In 2016, the Karnataka High Court, in the KR Khaleel Ahmad case, also ordered the government to establish such a panel, emphasising that transparency in leadership appointments was essential for restoring credibility and efficiency in the Commission. Despite these strong recommendations, successive governments failed to act. It was only after growing public criticism in recent months that the cabinet finally approved the formation of a Search Committee during its meeting on March 14 this year.

The newly formed committee will be headed by the Chief Secretary to the Government and will include five members. These members can include retired IAS officers who have served as Additional Chief Secretaries, former Secretaries to the Central Government, or retired directors from reputed national institutions such as IIMB, IISc, or IITs. The Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms will serve as the member-secretary. This marks the first real step towards reform in over a decade, with the Hota Committee recommendations finally being implemented 12 years later, and the High Court order being acted upon after nine years.

Embarrassing translation gaffe

The official order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms used the term "Hudukaata Samiti" (Search Committee), but mistranslated it as "Hudukaat Samiti" in Kannada — a term that sparked ridicule on social media for sounding colloquial and inappropriate. The original Hota Committee report, written in English, had referred to the panel as a "Search Committee" or "Broad-Based Search Committee." Officials allegedly used Google Translate without cross-verifying the Kannada term.

389 candidates absent

Meanwhile, the KPSC main examination began on Saturday amidst confusion caused by the last-minute issuance of admit cards. On the first day, qualifying exams for General Kannada and English were conducted across 9 centres in Bengaluru and 8 in Dharwad. The turnout was reportedly high, with 93.3% of candidates appearing for the exams. Out of 5,424 registered candidates, including over 350 who received admit cards late following a court order, 389 candidates remained absent. The examination process went smoothly without any reported disruptions, according to KPSC sources.

Traders oppose BBMP's uniform waste fee

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has expressed concern over the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP's) initiative to implement a Solid Waste Management (SWM) user fee effective from April 1, 2025.

FKCCI president MG Balakrishna said that while the principle of the "Polluter Pays" is globally recognised, the business community is unhappy with the fee structure.

"Under the new policy, residential properties are charged monthly fees ranging from Rs 10 to Rs 400 based on built-up area, while commercial establishments are levied Rs 12 per kilogram of waste generated. An annual increment of 5 per cent is also stipulated," the FKCCI president said.

He said that the industry and trade sectors are committed to sustainable practices and understand the necessity of effective waste management.

"However, the current fee structure causes several concerns. The flat rate of Rs 12 per kg for commercial waste does not account for the diversity in business operations and waste generation levels. For instance, a small retail outlet and a large manufacturing unit are subjected to the same rate, which may not be equitable," he said.

He emphasises the need for clear disclosure on how the collected fees will enhance waste management infrastructure and services.

"The government should consider a tiered fee system that reflects the nature and scale of different businesses. I want the government to encourage businesses to adopt in-situ waste processing through rebates or reduced fees. I also want the government to initiate regular consultations with industry representatives to address concerns and collaboratively develop effective waste management strategies," he said.

He urged the BBMP to engage in constructive dialogue with the business community to refine the SWM, ensuring environmental support without imposing undue burdens on industry and trade. — BMB

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

In-laws, but not in-funds!

Yelahanka MLA SR Vishwanath and Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh may now be family—thanks to Vishwanath's daughter marrying Suresh's son—but that hasn't translated into any extra grants for Yelahanka. At a recent public event, Vishwanath didn't mince words. "Sure, Byrathi Suresh is now my in-law, but more than that, I'm the elected representative of this constituency," he quipped. With Suresh attending the event as Hebbal MLA (which falls under Yelahanka taluk), Vishwanath seized the moment to call upon the CM to nudge his minister for more development funds. "CM Sir, please tell him—family is great, but my constituency needs funding!"

Fail? bring the cake

In a world where SSLC results often decide the fate of students, here's a family rewriting the script—with cake, hugs, and a whole lot of heart. A student from Bagalkot had scored a mere 200 out of 625, and a clean sweep of 6 out of 6 fails. But guess what his family did? They threw him a cake party! Yes, you read that right. Mom, Dad, siblings, and even grandma gathered around the table—not to mourn the marks, but to celebrate resilience. Because in their words: "One exam doesn't define your life. Dust it off and try again!" But here's the twist that tugs at your heartstrings — Abhishek, at just 15 months old, suffered severe burns on both legs, leading to memory-related challenges that continue to affect him. Remembering answers was tough, but that didn't stop him from giving the exam his best shot. "I might have failed the exam, but I won't fail in life," Abhishek said with a smile. "I'll bounce back, prepare harder, and pass next time. You'll see." Moral of the story? Failures fade. But faith, love, and frosting stay forever.

'Ready for war'

Minister for Waqfs BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan recently surprised everyone, stating that he was ready to go to war if Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah gave him the green signal. He said that he would personally head to battle against Pakistan. Speaking to the media, the minister boldly said he was fully prepared to fight, challenging the Centre to take a tough stand.

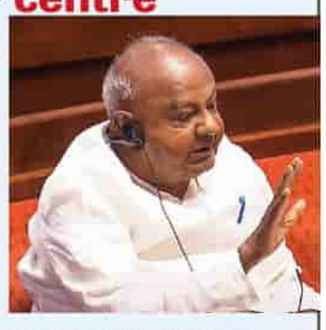
Fake wife, real arrest

In an odd turn of events, a woman from Kanakapura, who claimed to be the wife of former MP DK Suresh, posted a video on social media, leading to her arrest by Ramanagaram police. Pavitra, a government school teacher from Dodalahalli village, admitted during questioning that she posted the video to create fear among her neighbours. She believed that if people thought she was married to DK Suresh, they would be intimidated and avoid confrontation. Pavitra, who had divorced her husband and was living in Mysuru, edited a photo of herself with DK Suresh and shared it along with a fake voter ID card on social media. In the video, she proudly declared her supposed connection with the politician, stating, "I'm happy to say he's my husband. He has done great work that no one else has. I'm proud to call him my husband."

CM's slip-up scene

It was one of those moments that should have stayed in the "what-not-to-do" category. During a speech, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah nearly laid hands on a police officer — something that was uncalled for. But according to the Minister for Women and Child Development, Laxmi Hebbalkar, it was just an accidental slip-up at that moment. Speaking to the media, she said, "Siddaramaiah is not the type to step out of line when it comes to showing respect to authorities. That incident shouldn't have happened in the first place. The behaviour of the BJP workers was totally out of place. Do you think it looks good on them? What if Congress workers behaved like that at a BJP rally? Would they let them off the hook?. Our workers aren't the silent types. They, too, have their passions, loyalty, and a lot of care for the party," she added.

Support for centre



In the aftermath of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda made a heartfelt appeal urging everyone to support the central government in these challenging times. During a visit to former MLA SR Mahesh's residence in the city on Tuesday, Deve Gowda addressed the media about the Pahalyam attack, calling it an extremely heinous act. He urged unity in supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisions to fight terrorism. "We must show solidarity with the Prime Minister's tough stance against terrorism. I shared my opinion immediately after I heard about the incident. I don't lack intelligence, but I do have health issues. When such incidents occur, I write letters to the Prime Minister," he added with a chuckle. — Sridhar Vivan

BM SIMPLY PUT

Today we take a look at smart prepaid meters for new, temporary electrical connections

Meter is running

The High Court recently stayed BESCOM's move that mandated the installation of smart prepaid meters for new and temporary electrical connections. The court also severely criticized the government's decision regarding the pricing of smart meters.

1. What?
The Karnataka government has mandated the installation of smart electricity meters for all new and temporary power connections while keeping it optional for existing consumers. These smart meters operate on a prepaid system, allowing users to recharge and monitor their electricity consumption in real time. The initiative is part of the government's move towards digital transformation in the power sector, enhancing efficiency and transparency in billing and power distribution. The meters also enable remote monitoring, automatic disconnection and reconnection, and help reduce losses due to theft and unpaid dues.

2. Who?
The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) issued the guidelines for smart meter implementation, and BESCOM is overseeing the installation process. The initiative is led by the Energy Department, with key officials such as Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta and BESCOM Managing Director Dr. N. Shivashankara providing clarifications on the process. The installation is being carried out under the directives of the Union Ministry of Power, which introduced the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). Contractors have been engaged to manage the installation, with skilled workers retained for five years to ensure smooth operations.

3. When?
The KERC issued its guidelines for smart meter installation on March 6, 2024. The phased installation process began in urban areas on February 15, 2025, and will soon extend to rural areas. The tender for the smart meter procurement was floated on September 26, 2024, following the Standard Bidding Documents of the Ministry of Power and in compliance with the KTPP Act. The contract was awarded on December 23, 2024, to Rajashree Electricals, which placed the lowest bid. Currently, BESCOM has a stock of 30,600 smart meters ready for installation across Karnataka.

4. Where?
The installation of smart meters is being carried out across Karnataka under BESCOM's jurisdiction. Initially, the rollout started in urban areas and will gradually expand to rural regions. Other states, including Maharashtra, West Bengal, Sikkim, Manipur, and Madhya Pradesh, have already implemented similar smart meter systems under the RDSS scheme, where electricity supply companies recover the costs through consumer electricity bills. Karnataka is implementing the scheme differently by restricting mandatory installation to new and temporary connections rather than replacing all existing meters.

5. Why?
The move to install smart meters is aimed at improving efficiency in power distribution, reducing revenue losses, and enabling digital payments. Unlike conventional meters, smart meters allow real-time monitoring of electricity consumption, voltage levels, and power factors, helping consumers manage their usage more effectively. The system supports Time-of-Day (TOD) tariffs, remote reading, and immediate notifications to electricity providers in case of outages, ensuring faster resolution. The central government introduced RDSS in 2021-22 to modernize power distribution and subsidize infrastructure upgrades, but Karnataka did not fully adopt the scheme due to subsidy clearance conditions.

6. How?
Smart meters function similarly to prepaid mobile SIM cards, requiring users to recharge their electricity balance in advance. Consumers can recharge their meters online or through nearby electricity distribution offices. The meters are equipped with GPS-based communication and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology, enabling seamless data exchange between consumers and BESCOM. The cost of smart meters varies across states, with BESCOM ensuring transparency in pricing through a scientific approach. Due to logistical challenges in Karnataka, where installation is limited to new and temporary connections, the cost per meter is slightly higher compared to bulk replacement projects in other states.

Opposition to it
Opposition to smart meters arises due to cost concerns, privacy issues, and reliability doubts. Consumers fear higher bills, sudden disconnections, and potential misuse of energy data. Critics argue that existing digital meters are sufficient and that smart meters primarily benefit power companies rather than consumers.

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I, NAVANEESH V R R S/o RAMAMOORTHY R/o No 43, 3RD Floor , 2nd Cross, Nanjamma Layout Manorayanapalya RT Nagar Bengaluru 560032. I have changed my name to NAVANEESH RAMAMOORTHY vide affidavit dated: 02/05/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

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Special force needed to detect and curb anti-social elements, says Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that a special force is needed to detect and tackle anti-social elements. On the government's plan to form a task force to control violence in the communally sensitive coastal region of the state, the Chief Minister, addressing the media at the NDPU College premises in Akki Alur in Haveri district, said that he would discuss the matter with Home Minister G Parameshwara and take appropriate steps.

Coastal Mangaluru city recently witnessed incidents of mob lynching and murder of a Hindu activist, posing a serious challenge to the law and order situation.

Asked whether the compensation amount of Rs 25 lakh by the Congress-led government to the family of the deceased Fazil Mohammad was misused to fund Hindu activist Suhas Shetty's murder, CM Siddaramaiah stated that he doesn't have any details in this regard.

The investigation into the Shetty murder has revealed that Fazil's brother had allegedly funded the crime. Now, it is suspected whether Fazil's brother, arrested in the Shetty murder case, had used the compensation amount of Rs 25 lakh given by the Congress-led government to avenge Fazil's murder. Fazil was murdered by the Shetty-led gang in retaliation for the murder of BJP worker Praveen Kumar Nettaru in 2022, amid the hijab issue.

Mangaluru came to a standstill Friday following a bandh call by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, backed by several other Hindu organisations, in protest of the murder of Suhas Shetty

Siddaramaiah also said that Home Minister Parameshwara and Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who is also in charge of Mangaluru district, had visited Mangaluru, where the incident occurred, and he will respond to the question after he speaks to them.

Responding to a media query about whether the government has planned any special events marking its two-year tenure, the Chief Minister said that a two-year achievement programme has been organised in the Vijayanagara district.

Criticising those who earlier accused him of creating divisions through the caste census, the Chief Minister said: "Now the same people are welcoming the caste census being conducted by the Central government with an open mind. It's as if sacred water becomes holy only if it comes from a conch! Earlier, they made political statements, not based on facts - doesn't that become clear now?"

On JD-S supremo and former Prime Minister Deve Gowda's statement that the Congress is following a double standard on Pakistan, Siddaramaiah said: "Before joining hands with the BJP, what was Deve Gowda saying about Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and what is he saying now? It's Deve Gowda who is showing double standards."

Home Minister turns down demand for NIA probe

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday rejected BJP's demand for an NIA probe into the murder. "It is their (BJP's) opinion. Our view is that our police are doing their job very well. Eight people have been arrested in this connection and the investigation is in progress," Parameshwara told reporters here. He said at this stage, there was no need to hand over the case to the NIA. When asked why no one from the government visited and consoled the bereaved family members, Parameshwara said Shetty had five criminal cases against him.

"Please know that this is a murder case. There were five criminal cases against him. That's the reason that no one from the government, I mean the public representatives, either me or anyone else, met them," the Minister said.

He, however, added that the government will ensure that the family gets justice. "Already we have done our work and we have arrested eight people," Parameshwara explained. **PTI**

Your Connect

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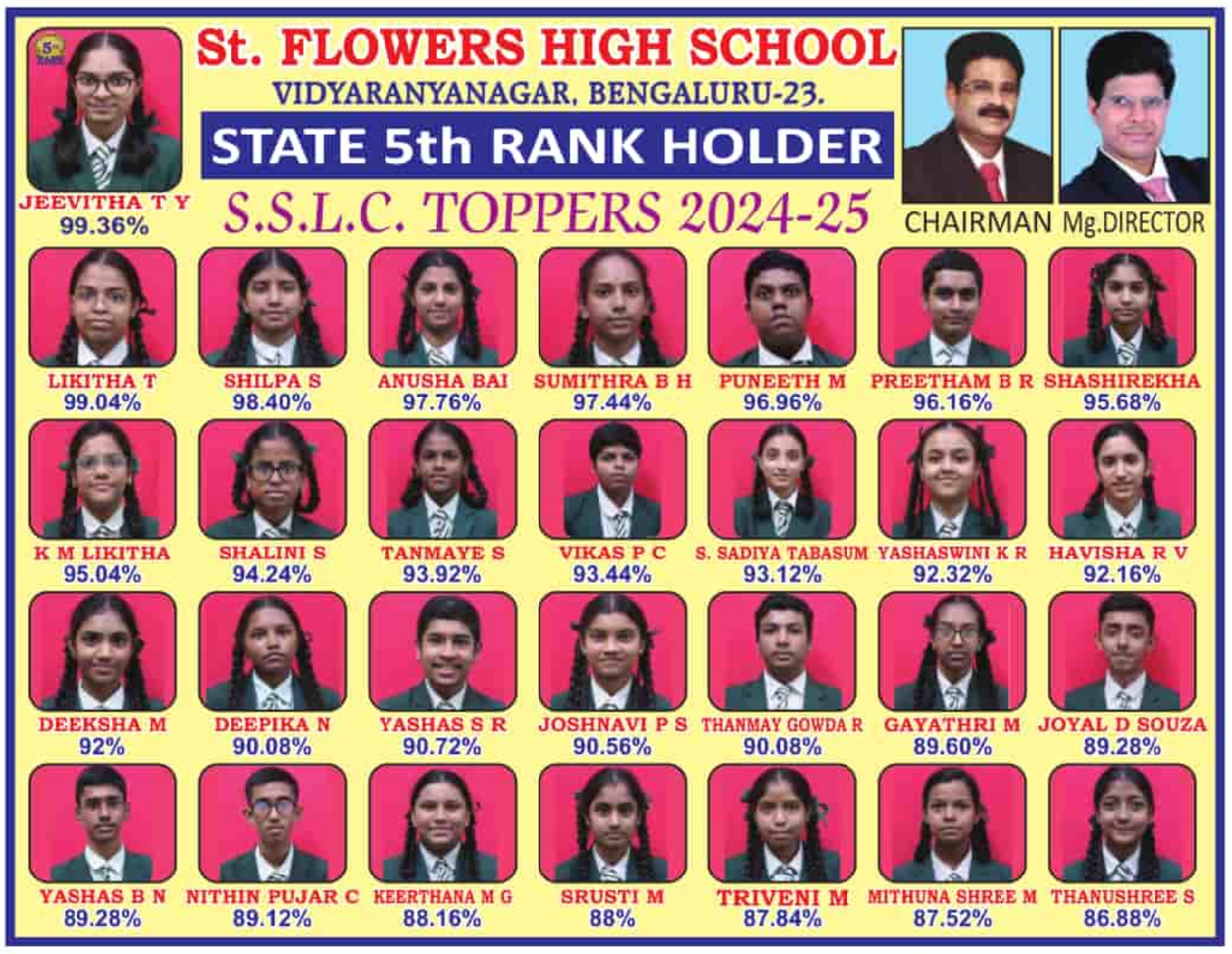

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Tip all you want, ride is not assured

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

location due to congestion and traffic. Commuters also report that higher tips are frequently demanded during peak evening hours, particularly when office-goers are heading home, during rain, or even for shorter trips.

In such cases, unless a higher tip is offered upfront, getting a confirmed ride remains uncertain.

"Even in the mornings, tipping doesn't always help," says an office-goer who commutes from Koramangala to Shantinagar. "Sometimes I have to tip more than ₹30 just to get a ride. And even then, there are days when no one accepts. I end up flagging down a passing auto or squeezing into a shared one just to reach the office on time."

With rising complaints regarding tip demand, Transport minister Ramalinga Reddy urged commuters to formally report instances where excessive tips are being requested by auto drivers.

With e-bike services currently suspended, the gap in urban mobility has created an opportunity for autos to fill the space more effectively and responsibly (or so we hope).

Fallen trees, inundated roads left to fix themselves

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One day, two days… Eventually someone shows up with a jetting machine that looks older than the city itself," said Lakshmi R, a resident of Rajajinagar whose living room briefly turned into a kiddie pool, minus the fun.

Every year, there's a checklist: BBMP is supposed to desilt stormwater drains and identify weak trees before they come crashing down; BESCOM is expected to prune overhanging branches so they don't take down power lines with them; and BWSSB is tasked with cleaning manholes and ensuring sewage lines don't overflow into people's living rooms. But, like clockwork, this annual ritual is either forgotten or carried out too late — usually when the damage is already done and residents are left wading through ankle-deep sewage or navigating roads blocked by fallen trees, wondering why they bother paying taxes at all.

On May 1, an auto driver was crushed to death by a falling tree. Yet, the city's response remains stuck in bureaucratic slumber with an advisory asking people not to stand below trees when it rains. So yes, Bengaluru may be India's IT capital, but when it pours, it's the DIY capital. Residents pay taxes, sure — but they also need to own shovels, pruning saws, and maybe a canoe.

After all, in this city, you don't just live through the monsoon. You survive it — one blocked road, flooded home, and one ignored complaint at a time.

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Best way to prepay your home loan: Some prepayment strategies

The quicker you repay your home loan, lesser the total interest you will pay

Good days for home loan borrowers are finally here, as the interest rate reduction cycle started early this year with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reducing the repo rate by 0.25% in February, which was followed by another cut of 0.25% in April. A lower interest rate means you can pay off your home loan quicker. The more quickly you repay your home loan, the lesser the total interest you will pay.

No one loves to live with big EMIs for an extended period. Home loans are one of the biggest liabilities for most of the homebuyers, which they always try to get rid of as early as possible. With the new tax regime, the advantage of income tax savings for home loans is also gone. So, now more and more people would be looking for early closure of a home loan. The rate cuts have not only lowered the amount of interest on your home loan but also oer you an opportunity to further accelerate your home loan repayment through partial prepayments.

When it comes to partial prepayments, there are many ways you can approach it, and each has its own set of advantages that you can utilise if it suits your situation.

With the new tax regime, advantage of income tax savings for home loans is gone, so one would look for early closure

Scenario 1: Make occasional partial prepayment with surplus

Be it a bonus, incentive, gift or other windfall gains, all of these can very well be utilised towards accelerating your home loan repayment. Every partial prepayment that you make helps you bring down the loan outstanding immediately. Since the interest is charged only on the loan outstanding balance amount, any reduction in this outstanding saves a substantial interest amount that you would have otherwise paid for many months. So, making partial prepayment whenever you have surpluses can be a very effective way to accelerate your home loan repayment.

For instance, on an outstanding Rs 40 lakh home loan, if your current interest rate is 8% and your remaining tenure is 20 years, then even a partial prepayment of Rs 1 lakh would save you a total interest of Rs 3.72 lakh and your loan will be repaid 14 months early.

Scenario 2: Make a fixed amount of partial prepayment each year

Making a partial prepayment of a fixed amount each year could also be a very effective strategy to quickly pay off your home loan without committing to higher monthly instalments. On an Rs 40-lakh home loan outstanding at 8% interest with a remaining tenure of 20 years, if you make a partial prepayment of Rs 50,000 each year, then you will need to make 16 such annual partial prepayments, and your loan will be paid off completely. You will end up saving Rs 11.11 lakh, and your loan will be paid off 57 months early.

Scenario 3:Increase your EMIto pay more each month

Most people see their income rise with time, often annually, especially in the case of salaried homebuyers. If you are looking to pay off your home loan early, then you can very well utilise this income gain to pay off your home loan early.

Even a small increase in your EMIs will surprise you with the overall gains it can deliver. With the least burden, this method helps you to pay off your home loan in the most efficient way.

For instance, on an outstanding Rs 40 lakh home loan at 8% interest for a remaining tenure of 20 years, an increase of Rs 722 in EMI—from Rs 33,458 to Rs 34,180—will save you Rs 2.37 lakh as interest payment over the course of repayment. Your loan will also be closed 12 months early.

However, one should be very careful not to be overambitious and commit to an excessively high EMI, which can become a source of stress to service in the future.

–Naveen Kumar, ET Online

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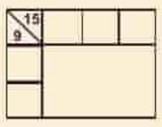
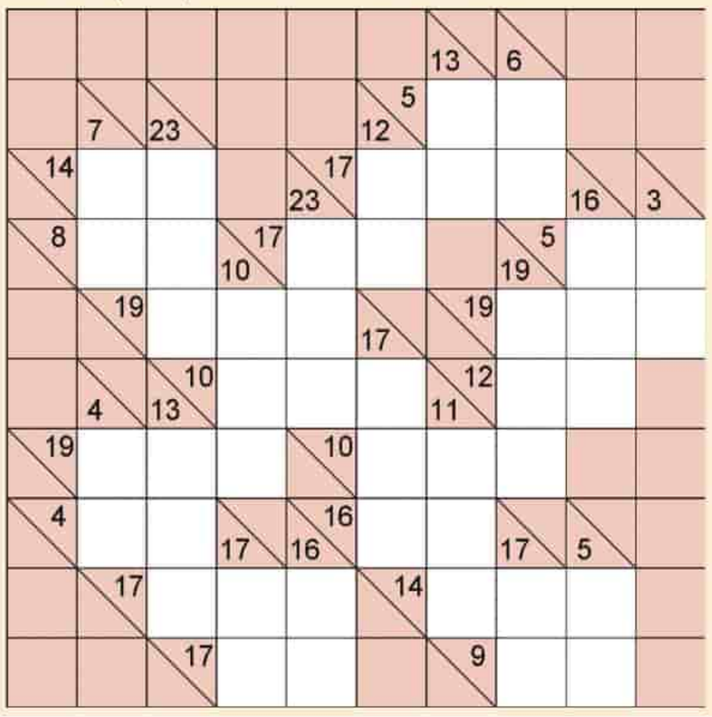
Kakuro

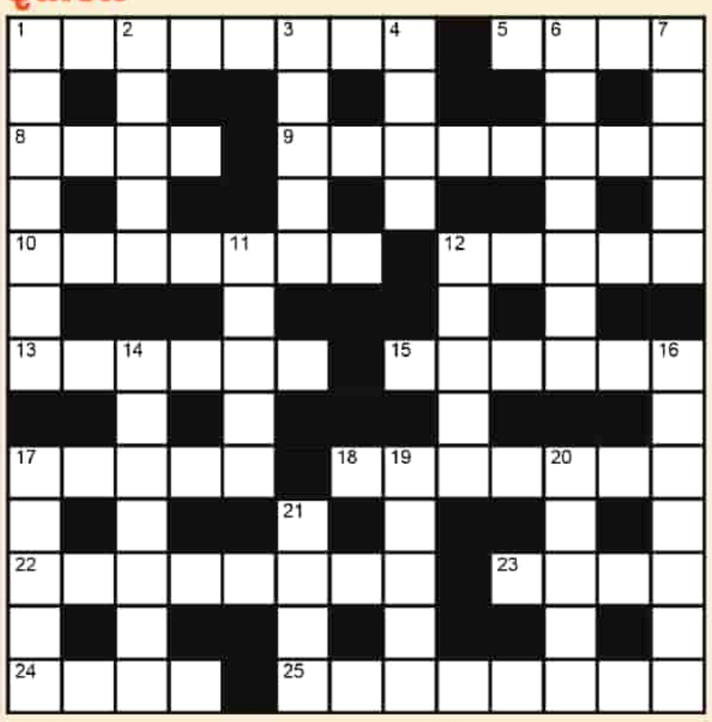
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 First Indian C-in-C of the Indian army (8)
5 Piece of glass (4)
8 Palindromic pop quartet (4)
9 Buries once more (2-6)
10 River of Washington (7)
12 Triangular section at top of wall (5)
13 Make insensitive to? (6)
15 Bathroom powder (6)
17 ___ one's lip : shows or express scorn? (5)
18 Eight-sided figure (7)
22 Daily-and no more? (4,1,3)
23 Wealthy (4)
24 Criminal group (4)
25 Principal component of air (8)

DOWN

1 Crowded (7)
2 Refute (5)
3 Winter coat (5)
4 Ms Bhatt of Bollywood (4)
6 Bitter, sour (7)
7 Come after (5)
11 ___ half-way : responds to the advances, in a way? (5)
12 Bestow (5)
14 Nigerian or Egyptian? (7)
16 Yehudi ___ : the famous violinist ? (7)
17 Holiday spot in Karnataka (5)
19 Underground chapel (5)
20 Norwegian composer (5)
21 Norse god (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS D

L AZH'C WHZB YHOCKLHV YEZQC JQRLD. LH JO NLHS OZQ AZH'C KYPS CZ.–SNPLR XFSRNSO

Linemaro

If I walked a millimeter for every time I thought of you, I would have walked across the earth a million times

Mindchow

Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards

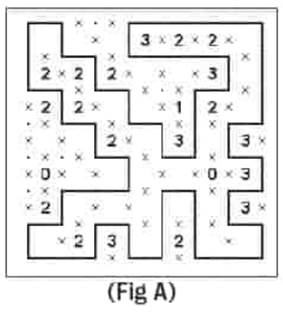
Joke of the day

If you're confident after you've just finished an exam, it's because you don't know enough to know better

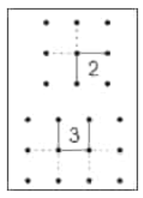
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

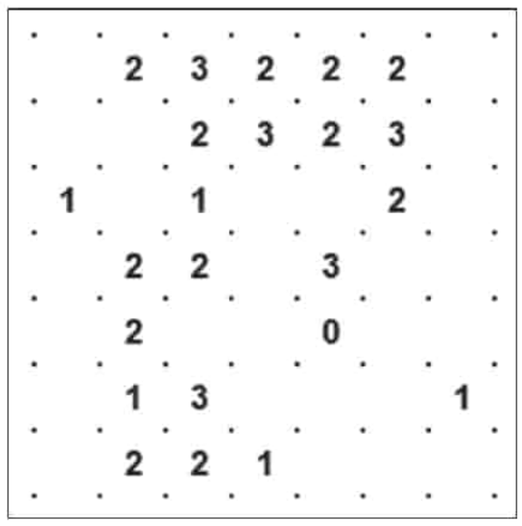


(Fig B) Not Allowed

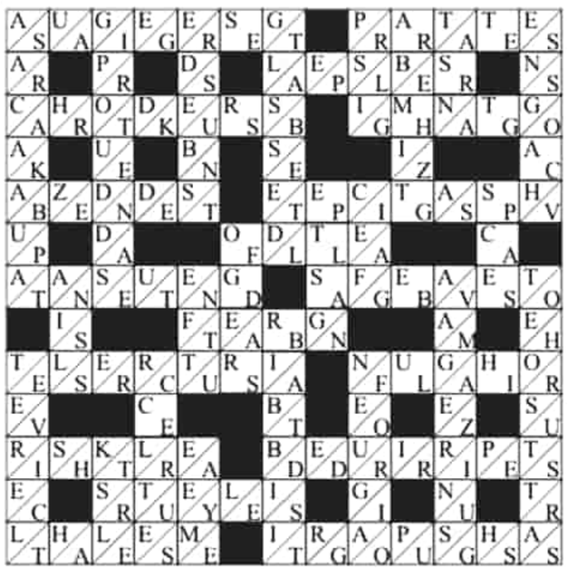
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



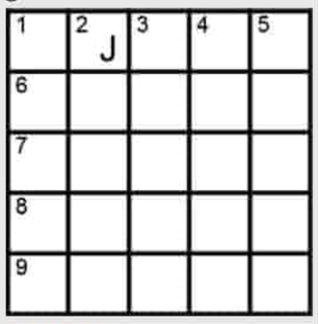
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

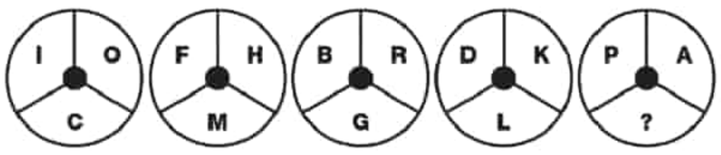
1 For JD; 6 Or rev; 7 Sane I; 8 Annas; 9 Hew CS

DOWN

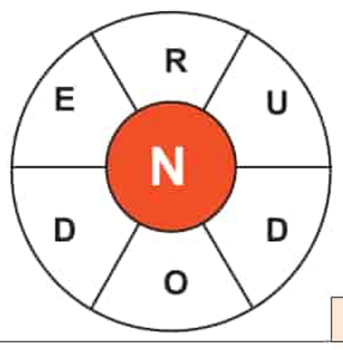
1 FN car; 2 A John; 3 Envoi; 4 Wears; 5 S Reds

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7		8		4		2	
8								3
		6	3		5	1		
3		1		6		9		7
			4		9			
2		5		7		3		6
		4	6		7	2		
9								1
	8		9		1		3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 9

2 5 7 9

Medium

= 40

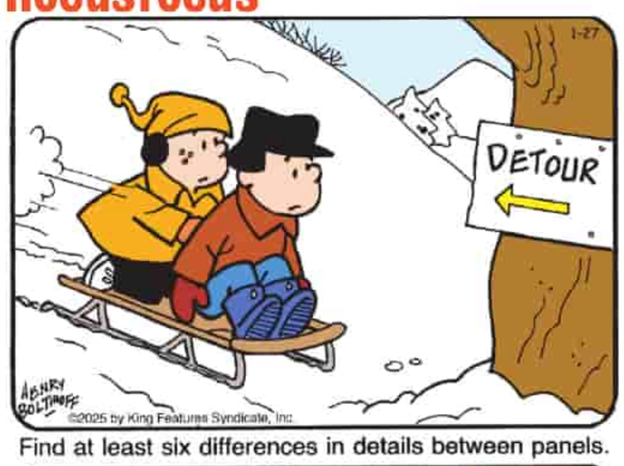
3 4 5 6

Hard

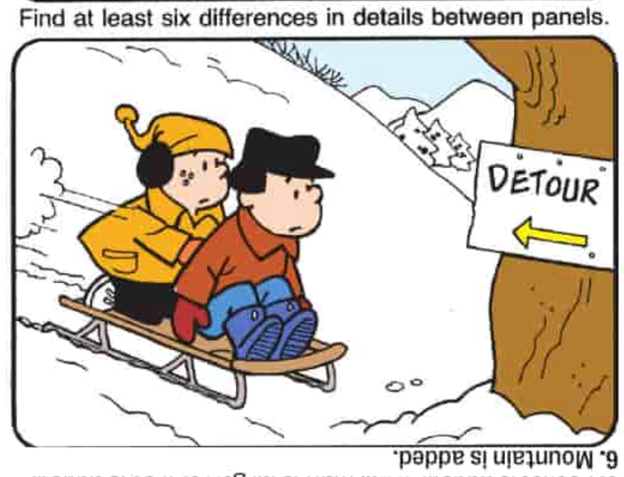
= 13

5 7 8 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arrow is moved. 2. Cap is different. 3. Pocket is added. 4. Earmuff is larger. 5. Tree is added. 6. Mountain is added.

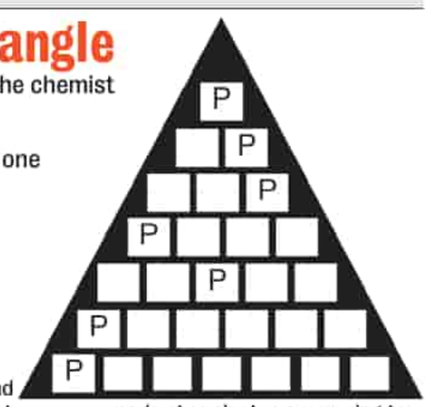
Riddler

Which row is the odd one out?

A.	K	N	Q	T	W	Z
B.	B	F	J	N	R	V
C.	A	F	K	P	V	Z
D.	3	6	9	12	15	18
E.	7	11	15	19	23	27
F.	13	18	23	28	33	38

Alpha triangle

1 Phosphorus for the chemist
2 Opus, abbr.
3 Apex or acme
4 Wordsworth, for one
5 Storage site
6 Like some plants
7 Conspired



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

MAN WAS PAINTING PICTURES BEFORE YOU SCIENTISTS STARTED INVENTING!
OF COURSE!
HA! THEN YOU ADMIT ART IS IMPORTANT!
OF COURSE IT WAS—IN A CAVE WITHOUT ELECTRIC LIGHTS, RADIO OR A HEATED SWIMMING POOL!
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING ELSE TO DO!
8-7

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

DID YOU FINISH YOUR BOOK REPORT? IT'S DUE TOMORROW.
CHARLOTTE, I HAVEN'T EVEN DONE THE READING.
KRINKLE
SOMETIMES MAXI PAD
RIP!!
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S ON THEIR PERIOD! HEEEHEEEE!!
SIGH
HEY, KID! HEY, YOU! HEY!! DUMMY! YOUR BACKPACK IS OPEN!!
KAT
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
MISERABLE. THE ONLY THING I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IS MY HAIR APPOINTMENT. IT'LL WASH AWAY MY WORRIES AND MY DANDRUFF.

Crankshaft

SO PICKING UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF... YOU'D JUST GOTTEN BACK FROM NEW YORK AND YOUR UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO GET WORK AT MARVEL AND DC COMICS...
PIZZA
AND WERE TEACHING ARTS AND CRAFTS AT A LOCAL SCHOOL.
HOW DID THAT GO?
'LET'S JUST SAY THAT IN TERMS OF MY CARTOONING ASPIRATIONS... IT WAS VERY MOTIVATIONAL!'
TRA
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel healthy and focused on your goals. Your performance at work could be excellent, and your boss may reward you with important responsibilities. You might also receive good news regarding a legal matter. You are likely to gain control over opponents and business rivals.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel surrounded by negativity and burdened by your responsibilities. A rushed approach could lead to mistakes and reduced efficiency, possibly delaying projects and affecting your professional life. It's advised to consult with elders or professionals before making key decisions.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today favours intellectual pursuits. You may focus on gaining knowledge and understanding the value of mental assets. By controlling your temper, you'll improve your productivity. Steady earnings can bring comfort, but be cautious with new investments. Spending on loved ones may increase. Lovebirds will enjoy happy moments together.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You're likely to be enthusiastic and focused today, which may help accelerate delayed projects. With support from subordinates, you may initiate a profitable new venture. Short family-related trips are possible. Job seekers may receive favourable news.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may successfully control unnecessary spending, leading to improved savings. Your creativity will shine, benefiting your workplace and home, enhancing your social status. Lovebirds may receive family support for marriage plans. Students can expect positive academic news.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Strong willpower may inspire you to launch new initiatives at work. A large order may come through in a family business, boosting its growth. You may be assigned new job responsibilities that keep you busy. Job seekers may find good opportunities. Improved understanding with your spouse enhances family harmony.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Health issues could make you restless today. There may be a tendency to waste money on unimportant items. Try to control your temper. Lovebirds should avoid unnecessary arguments, as they could lead to misunderstandings or even a breakup.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may meet an influential person who helps advance your career or business. Your professional network will strengthen, and you'll be inspired to implement new ideas. Plans to invest more capital into your business may result in future gains. On the personal front, expect family gatherings and social events.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Your mother's health may improve today. You'll likely enjoy your work and receive rewards for past efforts. Your social reputation may grow. However, mental overexertion could make you tired, and work pressure might cause you to miss a family event.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel satisfied at work and might plan a short business trip. Visiting a religious place could bring peace of mind. Mentorship or spiritual guidance may help clarify your goals and direction.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may feel low today, so it's important to keep a calm mind. Think carefully before acting. You might need to travel to recover money, or risk financial loss. Avoid adventure trips. Students should focus on deep study for better results.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today brings happiness and domestic harmony. You may meet someone influential who helps with career growth. Your job performance is likely to be strong, and you might receive promotions or rewards. Property-related disputes could be resolved.

KIDZONE

R Ananyaa, Bengaluru

Ananya Vastare, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
15^3+12-0 = 45+12 = 57

RIDDLER
C is the odd row out. In A two letters are skipped between each letter. In B three letters are skipped between each letter. In C four letters are skipped between each letter except V, which should be U. The numbers in rows D, E and F follow the same pattern.

C	H	E	W	S
N	A	N	A	S
A	N	I	S	E
R	O	V	E	R
F	J	O	R	D

FAST FIVE

BULL'S EYE
done, drone, undo, dune, node, nude, rend, round, rune, ROUNDED, under,

STRIKE OUT

S	U	G	G	E	S	T	■	P	R	A	T	E	■	■
A	R	■	D	■	A	P	S	E	S	■	N	■	■	■
C	H	O	K	E	R	S	■	I	M	A	G	O	■	■
K	■	U	■	N	■	S	■	I	■	■	C	■	■	■
B	E	N	D	S	■	E	P	I	T	A	P	H	■	■
U	■	D	■	O	L	L	A	■	A	■	■	■	■	■
T	A	S	T	E	D	■	A	F	E	A	S	T	■	■
■	I	■	F	E	R	N	■	M	■	H	■	■	■	■
E	L	E	C	T	R	A	■	F	L	A	I	R	■	■
V	■	E	■	B	■	O	■	Z	■	U	■	■	■	■
I	S	T	L	E	■	B	E	R	R	I	■	E	S	■
C	■	S	T	Y	L	I	■	G	■	N	■	T	■	■
T	H	E	S	E	■	T	R	O	U	G	H	S	■	■

QUICK

C	A	R	I	A	P	P	A	■	P	A	N	E	■	■
R	■	E	■	A	■	L	■	C	■	N	■	■	■	■
A	B	B	A	■	R	E	I	N	T	E	R	S	■	■
M	■	U	■	K	■	A	■	R	■	U	■	■	■	■
P	O	T	O	M	A	C	■	G	A	B	L	E	■	■
■	E	■	■	E	■	■	R	■	I	■	■	■	■	■
D	E	A	D	E	N	■	T	A	L	C	U	M	■	■
C	U	R	L	S	■	O	C	T	A	G	O	N	■	■
O	■	I	■	O	■	R	■	■	R	■	■	U	■	■
O	N	C	E	A	D	A	Y	■	R	I	C	H	■	■
R	■	A	■	I	■	P	■	E	■	I	■	■	■	■
G	A	N	G	■	N	I	T	R	O	G	E	N	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
Q. In each circle, the reverse alphabetical value of the lower letter equals the sum of the alphabetical values of the top 2 letters.

QUOTE UNCODE
I don't know anything about music. In my line you don't have to. – Elvis Presley

SUDOKU

5	7	3	8	1	4	6	2	9
8	1	9	7	2	6	4	5	3
4	2	6	3	9	5	1	7	8
3	4	1	5	6	2	9	8	7
7	6	8	4	3	9	5	1	2
2	9	5	1	7	8	3	4	6
1	3	4	6	8	7	2	9	5
9	5	7	2	4	3	8	6	1
6	8	2	9	5	1	7	3	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
Easy
9 + 5 + 2 – 7 = 9
Medium
6 x 5 / 3 x 4 = 40
Hard
8 – 7 x 5 + 8 = 13

GO FIGURE
P, Op, Top, Poet, Depot, Potted, Plotted.

LOOP

KAKURO

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Pen Drive teaser

Karnataka politics is no stranger to pen drive, sleazy videos, and CDs. A few politicians have even used these as tools to threaten their foes. Now, a Kannada movie – Pen Drive – is in the making. It is said the recent news is the inspiration for the director to write the script for this movie.

The team of Pen Drive unveiled the teaser of the movie in the presence of prominent personalities of Sandalwood. The movie, directed by Sebastian David, has Tanisha Kuppanda, Kishan, and Malashree, Sanjana Naidu, and Kari Subbu in the cast. It is bankrolled by N Hanumantharaju, Lion S Venkatesh under the RH Enterprises and Sri Tirumala Cini Enterprises banners.

"The story is a work of fiction. The movie's shooting has been wrapped up as per the schedule. I thank the producers for their cooperation and support during the shooting. The movie is expected to arrive in theaters shortly," said Sebastian David, adding that the trailer of the movie will be unveiled shortly.

Bigg Boss fame Kishan debuts as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie.

Priyanka in Bollywood

Real Star Upendra's better half Priyanka is acting in a Hindi movie - September 21. The movie is helmed by 22-year-old Karen Kshiti Survarna from Karnataka. The movie, with a tagline – Love Beyond Memory - is about a Bengalurean who suffers from Alzheimer's and a caretaker. Priyanka is playing Kamala, the caretaker while Praveen Singh Sisodia plays Rajkumar, who has Alzheimer's.

It is said the movie revolves around Kamala who faces a lot of problems while taking care of the senior citizen and how she becomes the lifeline for him when his health deteriorates.

The movie's script was written by Malayalam writer Nellooli P Rajasekharan while Vinay Chandra has scored its music and Anil Kumar K has worked behind the camera.

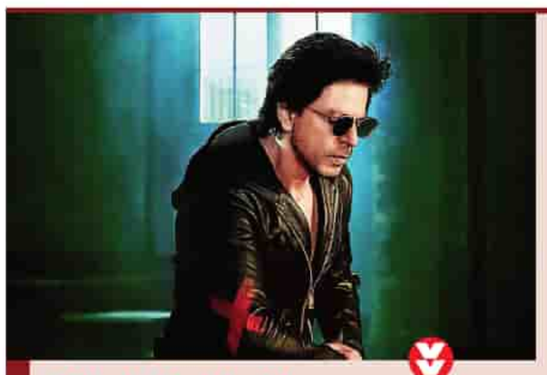
September 21 features Amit Behl, Zarina Wahab, Sachin Dilip Patekar, Ricky Rudra, and Nellooli P Rajasekharan.

Prior to this, Karen has the experience of handling the megaphone for Hide and Seek, a short film that was screened at a few international film festivals and bagged some awards.

As of now, the shooting of September 21 is in progress. The producers have decided to release the movie in the country only after it is screened at international film festivals.

Fame meets fury

ETimes looks at times when celebs were in line of fire



Shah Rukh Khan – 'Pathaan' and 'My Name Is Khan' protests

The King of Bollywood has faced backlash multiple times. During the release of My Name Is Khan (2010), Shiv Sena workers vandalized posters and protested outside cinemas after SRK spoke in favor of including Pakistani cricketers in the IPL. Again in 2022-23, during the promotions of Pathaan, the saffron outfit controversy and Deepika's bikini color in "Besharam Rang" sparked political outrage. Posters were torn, protests erupted across cities, and theaters were threatened with damage.

Salman Khan – Black buck case fallout

Although not directly due to his films, Salman Khan's long-standing black buck case in Jodhpur triggered several protests by groups both in favor of and against him. His effigies were burnt during court proceedings, and banners outside courtrooms were damaged by protestors. Security was tightened during verdict announcements due to potential mob actions.

Kangana Ranaut – BMC demolishes her Mumbai office

In 2020, amidst her war of words with the Maharashtra government and Shiv Sena, Kangana's Mumbai office was partly demolished by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), citing "illegal construction." The incident occurred just before her arrival in Mumbai, leading to massive political and media frenzy. Kangana compared the situation to "Pakistan Occupied Kashmir."

Deepika Padukone – 'Padmaavat' set attacked

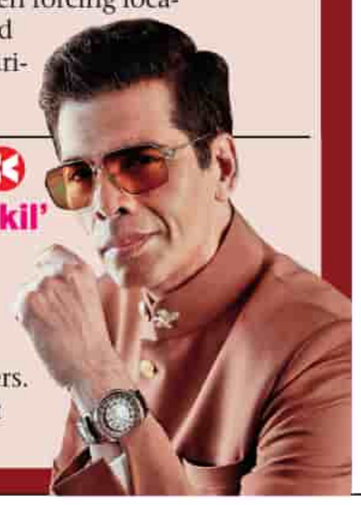
The sets of Padmaavat (2018), directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, were repeatedly vandalized by Karni Sena members who believed the film distorted history. The group attacked the film set in Rajasthan and vandalized the director's equipment. Later, during promotions, effigies of Deepika were burnt, and threats were issued, sparking nationwide concern.

Aamir Khan – 'Intolerance' comment fallout

In 2015, after Aamir Khan spoke about rising intolerance in India, political and social groups retaliated fiercely. His endorsement contracts were affected, and Snapdeal even faced boycott calls. While there was no direct vandalism at his home, effigies were burnt, posters defaced, and public anger spilled over into physical threats, sparking serious debate on freedom of expression.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali – Repeated vandalism on sets

Bhansali is no stranger to controversies. Apart from Padmaavat, his previous project Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela also faced protests and vandalism from certain groups who objected to the film's title and religious themes. The director has repeatedly faced disruptions during shoots and promotions, often forcing location changes and heightened security.



Karan Johar – Trouble over Pakistani actors in 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'

Following the Uri attacks in 2016, there was a nationwide call to ban Pakistani artists. Karan Johar's Ae Dil Hai Mushkil featured Fawad Khan, and the backlash was immediate. MNS workers vandalized theaters and threatened cinema owners. Karan had to release a video stating he would not work with Pakistani actors again.

Rane in support of Babil, has this tip

Actor Harshvardhan Rane, whose film 'Sanam Teri Kasam' became a phenomenal hit after its re-release recently, is lending his support to fellow actor Babil Khan after a video of the latter's emotional breakdown went viral.

On Sunday, Harshvardhan took to the Stories section of his Instagram, and shared a note in which he addressed Babil, and his now deleted video.

Harshvardhan praised "God level genetics in acting", and advised the younger actor to be mindful and carry on his father's legacy.

He said that being an outsider, he knows that Bollywood parties can sometimes get on an artist's nerves but the best case scenario is to not let it affect you.

He wrote, "Dear Babil Khan, you're blessed with God level genetics in acting, we need you to carry on the legacy! Please just give your best to the craft, and after that 'stay away from events and after parties.' so as to avoid interaction with irritants".

He further mentioned, "I am not from a film family, I have learnt that people won't treat you badly if you dont allow them. You need to 'stand your ground'.

Also pls 'stay away from alcohol and any such stuff', because to stand tall you will need strength, pls take care (sic)".

Earlier, Babil's team and his family issued a statement thereby tendering a clarification on his part. While the actor named actors like Ananya Panday, Shanaya Kapoor, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Raghav Juyal, Adarsh Gourav, Arjun Kapoor, his team has said that he was merely appreciating the good work put up by these actors in the Hindi film industry which seems to be bleeding commercially, of late.